Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00375 01 OF 02 310901Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
OMB-01 SCA-01 ARA-06 DHA-02 /095 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2093
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0375

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILIM MOPS, CG, AO
SUBJ: KAPANGA MISSIONARIES' FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF SHABA INVASION

REF: LUBUMBASHI 349

1. SUMMARY. AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES, DESCRIBING EXPERIENCES IN KAPANGA AREA DURING INVADER OCCUPATION, SAY INVADERS CALLED SELVES "CONGOLESE" AND WERE FROM NON-SHABA AS WELL AS SHABA REGIONS OF ZAIRE. INVADERS PORTUGUESE-, SWAHILI-, AND FRENCH-SPEAKING, NO CUBANS OR WHITES AMONG THEM. THEIR IDEOLOGY SOCIALIST; AND ANTI-U.S. AND OTHER SLOGANS POSTED ON TOWN'S WALLS. AFTER 6-7 WEEKS OF GENERALLY BENEVOLENT BEHAVIOR TOWARD POPULATION AND SOLID LOCAL SUPPORT, INVADERS TURNED UNPLEA- SANT AFTER RECONNAISSANCE PLANE CIRCLED AREA AROUND APRIL 15. FEW DAYS LATER MISSIONARY DR. GLEN ESCHTRUTH "TRIED" BY KANGAROO COURT AS CIA AGENT, CONVICTED, AND EXECUTED ALONG WITH AFRICAN
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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00375 01 OF 02 310901Z

COMPANION. FAZA BOMBING OF REGION BEGAN MID-MAY, AND INVADERS FLED TOWN SUDDENLY AROUND MAY 22 WHEN RUMOR OF FAZ APPROACH CIRCULATED. FAZ AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU ARRIVED MAY 26, AND MOBUTU COMPLIMENTED U.S. MISSIONARIES ON THEIR COURAGE AND DEDICATION IN STAYING THROUGH TILL END. IN VIEW OF MISSIONARIES, INVADERS WERE SERIOUS AND DEDICATED, AND WILL BE BACK, STRONGER NEXT TIME. END SUMMARY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

2. AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES LENA ESCHTRUTH, PRUDENCE KUHRT, MYRTLE PRITCHARD, AND CHARLES VINSON ARRIVED LUBUMBASHI MAY 30 AND DESCRIBED THEIR EXPERIENCES IN KAPANGA AREA DURING THEIR 11 WEEKS IN HANDS OF INVADERS. THEIR COMMENTS BASED ON LIMITED CONTACT WITH INVADERS, AS (A) MISSIONARIES SPENT VIRTUALLY ENTIRE TIME IN MISSION COMPOUND AT MUSUMBA, 9 KM NORTHEAST OF KAPANGA, (B) MISSIONARIES UNDER HOUSE ARREST ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY FROM APRIL 15 ON AND ALLOWED TO SPEAK ONLY TO AUTHORIZED INVADER GUARDS AND REPRESENTATIVES. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR OBSERVATIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT AND SHED LIGHT ON NATURE AND ACTIONS OF INVADING FORCES.

3. PROFILE OF INVADERS. MISSIONARIES SAID INVADERS ARRIVED WITH ONLY ONE JEEP, AND CONFISCATED ALL VEHICLES THEY COULD FIND. THEY WORE UNIFORMS AND WERE ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BUT MISSIONARIES COULD NOT IDENTIFY ORIGIN. THEY WERE NOT MAJORITY LUNDA, AND MANY CAME FROM BANDUNDU AND EVEN EQUATEUR, AS WELL AS SHABA. THEY CALLED SELVES "CONGOLESE", NOT KATANGANS. INVADERS GENERALLY SPOKE SWAHILI AND PORTUGUESE AMONG THEMSELVES, AND MOST ALSO SPOKE FRENCH. NO SIGN OF WHITES OR CUBANS. MOST WERE AGE 30-40. THEY SPOKE VAGUELY OF TRAINING THEY HAD RECEIVED, THOUGH SOME WERE VERY ILL-DISCIPLINED AND HARASSED THE MISSIONARIES. IN OPINION OF METHODISTS, THEY WERE SOMETIMES HIGH ON ALCOHOL OR DRUGS. ON WHOLE, HOWEVER,INVADERS WERE WELL-BEHAVED, AT LEAST FOR FIRST SIX WEEKS AFTER THEY ARRIVED.

4. INVADERS' POLITICS. MISSIONARIES SAY INVADERS ESPOUSED VAGUE SOCIA
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IDEOLOGY, AND DENOUNCED "CAPITALIST" USA AND MISSION HOSPITAL(FOR
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PAGE 03 LUBUMB 00375 01 OF 02 310901Z

CHARGING FEES TO PATIENTS). INVADERS POSTED PICTURES OF GENERAL MBUMBA AROUND VILLAGE PAINTED SLOGANS "DOWN WITH USA AND CIA," "DOWN WITH THE (TRIBAL) CHIEFS," AND "LONG LIVE LUMUMBA" ON WALLS. INVADERS HELD MEETINGS ATTENDED BY LOCAL POPULATION, MAIN THEME OF WHICH WAS DENUNCIATION OF MOBUTU AS "THIRD RICHEST MAN IN WORLD." THEY SET UP VARIETY OF COMMITTES, COMPOSES MOSTLY OF LOCAL PEOPLE WITH SOME SOLDIERS, TO RUN LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS HOSPITALS, RELIEVING PREVIOUS DIRECTORS OF COMMAND. THEY MADE HOSPITAL SERVICES FREE, AND HOSPITAL PERSONNEL WHO REFUSED TO DISPENSE FREE PILLS CHOSEN AT RANDOM BY CHILDREN WERE THREATENED BY SOLDIERS. THEY DISTRIBUTED SOME CONSUMABLES, INCLUDING SALT AND SOAP, TO POPULATION WITHOUT CHARGE. POPULATION REACTED FAVORABLY TO INVADERS, AND WERE SOLIDLY BEHIND THEM FOR FIRST 6-7 WEEKS AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00375 02 OF 02 310921Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0375

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5. MOUNTING TENSIONS AND THE DEATH OF DR. ESCHTRUTH. INVADERS GENERALLY FRIENDLY TO MISSIONARIES UNTIL AROUND APRIL 15, WHEN RECONNAISSANCE PLANE CIRCLED MUSUMBA SEVERAL TIMES. (CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS KAPANGA AREA NOT BOMBED AT THIS TIME, ONLY SURVEILLED.) IN SUCCEEDING DAYS AND WEEKS, SUCH RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS BECAME REGULAR EVENT. MISSIONARIES IMMEDIATELY PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AND EXTENSIVE AND CONTINUOUS SEARCHES OF THEIR PROPERTY BEGAN. INVADERS BECAME CONVINCED MISSIONARIES TRANSMITTING THROUGH SECRET RADIO NETWORK AND CONFISCATED ANYTHING WITH A WIRE THEY COULD FIND. THEIR ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR CHANGED FROM BENEVOLENT TO NASTY. ON APRIL 18 DR. ESCHTRUTH TAKEN AWAY BY SOLDIERS AND KANGAROO COURT TRIED HIM AS CIA AGENT. AFTER "CONVICTION", DR. ESCHTRUTH AND AFRICAN COMPANION DRIVEN AWAY NEXT DAY BY BELLIGERENT,
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PAGE 02 LUBUMB 00375 02 OF 02 310921Z

DRUNKEN SOLDIER. MISSIONARIES TOLD HE BEING TAKEN TO CHICAPA, ANGOLA, WHERE "THE GENERAL" TO REVIEW COURT DECISION. HE WAS NEVER SEEN ALIVE AGAIN. DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS, MISSIONARY WOLFORD HEARD RUMORS EXCHTRUTH DEAD, AND AFTER INVADERS FLED, HE DROVE WITH FAZ

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ESCORT TO POINT 40 KM SOUTH OF MUSUMBA, WHERE HE FOUND GRAVE WITH BODIES OF DR. ESCHTRUTH AND AFRICAN COMPANION. DR. EXCHTRUTH'S CALENDAR WATCH, FOUND ON BODY, STOPPED APRIL 22, SO MISSIONARIES THEORIZE HE KILLED APRIL 19. THEY NOT SURE IF HIS EXECUTION UNDER ORDERS OR SIMPLY SOLO ACT OF DRUNKEN SOLDIER, BUT PRIOR TRIAL SUGGESTS LIKELIHOOD OF FORMER.

6. THE INVASION'S LAST DAYS. FAZA MACCHIS BEGAN BOMBING MUSUMBA AREA AROUND MAY 10-15. ON ABOUT MAY 15 FAZA BOMB HIT METHODIST CHURCH AT MUSUMBA-KAKESE AS SERVICES ENDING, AND EIGHT KILLED INCLUDING PASTOR. OTHERWISE, LITTLE DAMAGE FROM BOMBING IN AREA. AROUND MAY 22 RUMOR CIRCULATED THAT FAZ APPROACHING, AND INVADERS RAPIDLY DEPARTED, TELLING CIVILIANS TO LEAVE AS WELL, WHICH THEY DID. FAZ ARRIVED AT MUSUMBA MAY 26. PRESIDENT MOBUTU ARRIVED IN KAPANGA SAME DAY AND MISSIONARIES WENT TO MEET HIM. MOBUTU AND ENTOURAGE VERY GRACIOUS TO MISSIONARIES, SEEMED SURPRISED AND PLEASED THAT AMERICAN MISSIONARIES (ALONG WITH 9 EUROPEAN CATHOLICS) HAD STAYED THROUGH ORDEAL TO END AND COMMENTED UPON THEIR COURAGE AND DEDICATION
.
ONLY A HANDFUL OF ZAIRIANS APPEARED TO MEET THE PRESIDENT, MOST OF WHOM WERE NURSING STUDENTS AT METHODIST HOSPITAL.

7. THE FUTURE. INVADERS DESCRIBED BY MISSIONARIES AS INTENSE, SERIOUS, DEDICATED. THEY HELD MEETINGS TO RECRUIT YOUNG VILLAGERS, WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, AND TOOK SOME YOUNG RECRUITS BACK TO ANGOLA WITH THEM. MISSIONARIES FIRMLY CONVINCED INVADERS WILL BE BACK, AND STRONGER NEXT TIME.
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# Message Attributes

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22 May 2009
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